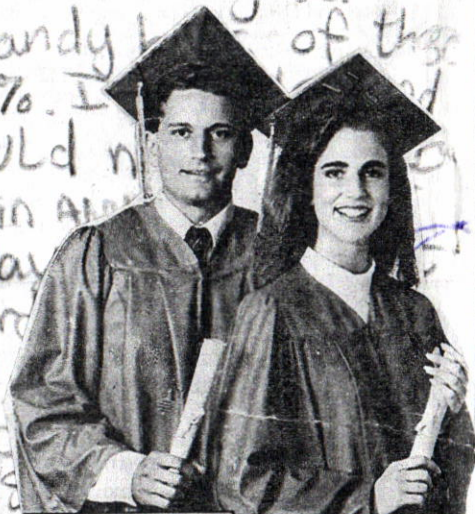


"WHAT I LEARNED IN SCHOOL TODAY" by Ronq

Today in school I learned that the way to get to the top is to kick other people down. I have learned this from the gold stars and candy



PO Box 2624
Portland, OR
97208 2624

**GET FREE
FACTS!**

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL
GUIDE
99-2000**



YET ANOTHER YEAR...



THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

I'M STUCK TO MY DESK WITH ALL OF THIS GUM THAT'S BEEN MOVED UNDERNEATH AND I SWEAR THESE FLUORESCENT LIGHTS ARE DRAINING MY BODY OF VITAMIN E. EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON MY SENSE OF SMELL IS GOING TO BE FURTHER CORRUPTED BY THAT NASTY SHIT BEING PREPARED IN THE CAFETERIA. UGG!

SO WHY DID I MAKE THIS DAMN THING ANYWAY? 'CAUSE I HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO? NOT REALLY, BUT I AM PRETTY FRUSTRATED AND PISSED WITH ALL OF THE TIME I WASTED (AND FELT MISTREATED) TRYING TO LEARN. PERHAPS THIS IS A WAY TO VENT THAT - AND TO PUT MY CREATIVE INOVATIONS TO WORK! THIS THING IS OUT BECAUSE A

Dehumanizing aspects of school-

● Having to wake up at times that conflict with those of your body's natural clock.

● Routine abridgment of human (constitutional) rights.

● Group rewards and punishments.

● Having to supply "acceptable" excuses for absence or lateness.

● Having to ask permission for basic human needs.

SUGGESTED READING

Freedom and Beyond, Learning All The Time, Teach Your Own, The Underachieving School, How Children Learn, or any other books by John Holt (the granddaddy of the whole unschooling movement) are all excellent and informative.

Homeschooling For Excellence by David and Micki Colfax. Written by the parents of three extraordinary unschooled Harvard graduates.

Why Schools Fail by Bruce Goldberg.

Deschooling Our Lives edited by Matt Hearn.

Free School and Death At An Early Age by Jonothan Kozol

Growing Without Schooling- Holt Associates/ 2269 Massachusetts Ave./ Cambridge, MA 02140

A very well established magazine for homeschooling/unschooling families. Started by John Holt.

Drop Out- 1114 21st / Sacramento, Ca/ 95814

A newsprint zine that focuses on alternative forms of education, started by a former teacher. A good place to look if you want to hear other people's stories on how school affected them (for the worse). \$1 per issue, \$5 for a subscription.

Schooling Without Growing- Collette/ PO Box 1275/ Wellfleet, MA 02667

A well written Mini-zine on the flaws of public schooling and some things you can do to help yourself. Available for one stamp!

Matriculate- Menghsin/ 7534 Farmington Ave/ Kalamazoo, MI 49009
all about absurd discipline in public schools. Available for \$1.50

Breakdown- PO Box 188602/ Sacramento, Ca 95818-8602

Another good alt. Education zine. Can be Very informative.

Check out DEATHMETALMILITIA' distro at PO box 17838/ Clearwater, FL 34622
They have many school-related zines and pamphlets.

Genius Tribe is a Mail-order catalog that distributes a lot of things that could be helpful if you want to educate yourself. Send \$1 for a catalog to 220 Cross Place/ Eugene, Or 97402

African American Homeschoolers. If you are *really* poor and can't get a hold of this book (check the library), send me a nice letter - I might just be able to hook you up.

SUGGESTED READING

Compulsory Miseducation and The Community of Scholars by Paul Goodman.

The Almanac of Education Choices edited by Jerry Mintz, Sidney Solomon, and Raymond Solomon.

Free School by Nigel Wright. A book about the White Lion Street free school in Islington, North London.

State Education Fails The Test by William Trench.

The Unschooling Handbook by Marry Griffith.

Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling by John Taylor Gatto, New York State's Teacher of the Year in 1991.

MORE



Unschooling websites there's a lot of them out there but these are the only two addresses I have right now; and they're really pretty good.

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/6529/index5.html>

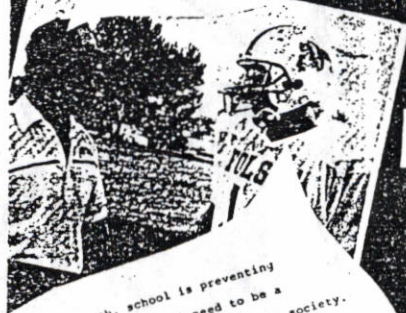
<http://www.midnightbeach.com/hs/undefine.htm>

LOT OF KIDS, AND

WELL, ADULTS TOO,
DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT UNSCHOOLING
OR HOW MUCH COM-
PULSORY SCHOOLING
SCREWS PEOPLE
OVER. I JUST WANT
TO 'RAISE AWARENESS'
I S'POSE, BECAUSE
IT JUST MIGHT SAVE
YOUR ASS LIKE IT
SAVED MINE.

SO THANKS FOR
READING MY BITSY
LITTLE PUBLICATION.
FEEL FREE TO MAKE
COPIES, THERE'S NO
COPYRIGHT THIS TIME.
BEST WISHES,
THE ZIP-ROCK!

dropping out of school??!!
you'll never get anywhere
in this world without an
education!!!



actually coach, school is preventing
me from learning what I need to be a
fully functioning person in today's society.
Plus I'm tired of the authoritarian
indoctrination, nationalistic brainwashing,
and patronizing attitudes. I guess I've just
decided that I need to be free. you understand.
don't you coach?

- Neglect of individual gifts and problems.
- Moving at the sound of a bell.
- Students coming to see themselves as products, moving down a twelve year assembly line with bits of knowledge poured in and bolted on by others as the belt moves along, seeing the primary responsibility of their education as being in the hands of others.

school
is
not
for
learning.



school is a prison.

school robs you of your experiences
school steals from the wealth of your youth
school blames it's students for their
boredom

school kills spirit, inspiration,
and intellect

from Rona.

justice department investigator asking for confir-
mations that Mafia money was going to a local
building company. The memo went to federal bank
regulators, the bank canceled the builder's line of
credit. The builders sued and the jury found the
allegations to be false. The paper was shit out of
luck because even though they never printed anything
about it, their copied and circulated memo
constituted publication. Got it? Be careful!
This tiny article is in no way a complete guide to
publishing. Do more research. A good start might be A
How-To Guide For Publishing A High School Zine,
available for \$1 from deathmetalmilita (address in
back).

The Teenage Liberation Handbook: How To Quit School and Get A Real Education by Grace Llewellyn -

When it comes to educational freedom, this is *the book* on everything you
need! The title pretty much explains for the most part what it is about - it

covers everything including how schools fail
to give students a really good education,
legal procedures and resources for getting
out of school, and a few of the possibilities
regarding what one might want to be doing
once they quit school. This book has opened
the eyes and brought happiness to the lives
of a lot of people. I'm not kidding. Even if
you aren't enlightened by what you read, it is
still a very informative book. Grace also
edited two other unschooling books: Real
lives: Eleven Teenagers Who Don't Go To
School and Freedom Challenge: Essays by



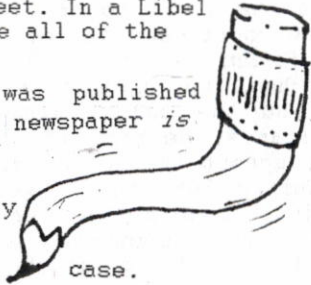
problems.

Libel is written language that adversely affects the target's (a living person or business) reputation. You can not publish an article that says

"Mrs. Miller is a whore!", unless you're going to be able to prove in court later on that she really sells herself on the street. In a Libel case, the plaintiff must prove all of the following things:

- The material was published (yes, your little newspaper is a publication).

- The material published actually concerned the plaintiff in the case.

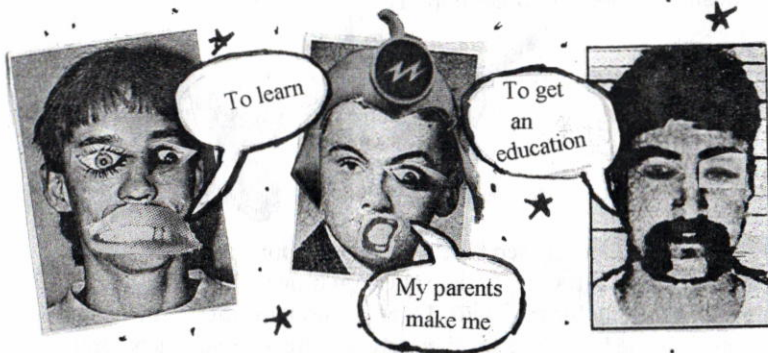


- The material was published with malice, intent, or negligence.
- the statements made damaged the reputation of the plaintiff.

If the plaintiff is a public person (people in the media spotlight, public officials, public spokespersons, in some states teachers, too.) they need to prove the statement was false. If it is a private person, they only need to prove it false if it's deemed of public interest. If you publish a statement saying the superintendent (public official, in some places at least) is constantly drunk on the job, that's of public interest. These people can be scrutinized with regard to their actual work or their capability to do that work. If you write that he's having an extramarital affair, that's not. That would actually be invasion of privacy, which is a whole somethin'-else that you could get in trouble for. Do your own research.

In 1983, The Altoona Telegraph sent a memo to a US

Why do you still go to school?



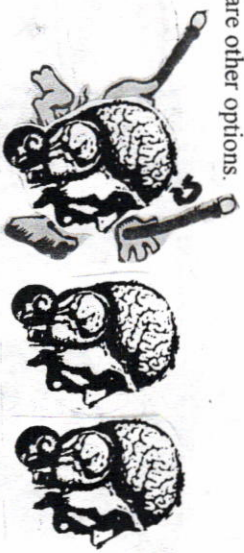
Most kids attend school every weekday. Their parents enrolled them when they were young and made them go and they have been doing it ever since, because it seems like just another part of life. Some kids like going and others hate it. Regardless, many go without even thinking about what purpose it is serving.

School teachers, parents, public service announcements, and just about everything else has managed to indoctrinate people, especially kids, with the idea that they need 12 years of formal schooling, and four of college too, if they want to be respected and have a decent paying job when they grow up. Most people just accept this as the truth and go through with the process. Even the people that can't stand school don't even think about quitting much, because they have been successfully indoctrinated, and don't want to become that "failure". Even the smartest of the smart usually think that they're doing something good for themselves by going to school.

Truthfully, an education would really do you good in life. There's not really any good reason that someone *wouldn't* want one.

However, something many people don't realize, and most of the time don't even think about, is that school is not the end-all-be-all of education. There are other options.

Remember to ask questions



Parents usually send their kids to compulsory public school at the age of five. Rarely do they question if they are doing the absolute best thing for their kids. Even less do kids question whether or not school is the best thing for themselves. Sure, everyone's parents want them to get an education. They see school and assume it's all good. What they don't see is that other forms of learning kick the ass of what public compulsory schooling poorly provides.

In school, we learn to obey teachers and administrators without question. We learn that we need answers. No one really goes out of their way to let us know that asking questions is very important, when in fact it can really open up the world. Listening to other people may be the easiest route, but investigating things for yourself with an open mind can be a really important experience.

The point here is that people should be questioning why they go to school and if not going would really be all that bad. Millions think that they need school to learn anything at all or get any type of education, but the majority of them have never even given much thought to what quitting school would be like. Everyone just says that "drop outs" will become incompetent pregnant teenagers or drugged-out slackers heading for a life-long journey of burger-flipping and pumping gas. Not many stop to question whether or not the only two choices in

THE UNDERGROUND PAPER

Contrary to popular belief, writing and distributing an underground publication, even one that Mr. Vice principal doesn't like, is perfectly legal. There is even this thing in the U.S. constitution that ensures that you have the right to do it! See, back in 1969 there was this court case called *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent School District*. A girl wore a black armband to school to express her opposition to the Vietnam War and the school authorities, with their typical brilliance, decided it was going to trigger mad riots throughout the school so they made her take it off. It turned into this huge Supreme court case that didn't just concern this girl's armband, but all forms of non-school sponsored expression inside a public school, including underground papers. The court ruled in favor of free speech. According to the Tinker decision, an underground paper must be legally obscene, libelous, or likely to cause substantial disruption for school officials to censor or ban it.

The words 'Fuck!', 'shit!', and 'f goddamn!' are not obscene, in spite of what your teachers may have told you. Neither are references to sex or genitalia, or suggestive pictures as long as they serve some sort of artistic, philosophical, or political purpose. In order for something to earn the label obscene in a court of law, it has to meet all three of these standards: 1) Predominately appeals to prurient, shameful interests of minors 2) Patently offends community standards regarding suitable sexual materials for minors 3) Taken as a whole, [it] lacks literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors. This might not be very clear to you, and it's not really to a lot of judges either, as they have different ways of interpreting these things. Your best bet is to try to use your best judgment, and omit anything unnecessary that might cause

Agencies that know where it's at:

American Civil Liberties Union
132 W. 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036
#(212)944-9800
-big 'ol organization that watches out for constitutional violations. Call for reference to your local ACLU office or for legal advice.

Student Press Law Center
1735 Eye Street NW, suite 504
Washington, DC 20006
#(202)466-5242
-Amazingly helpful on all student press issues; write or call for a copy of their report "Surviving Underground."

New Liberation News Service
PO Box 325
Kendall St. Branch
Cambridge, MA 02142
-Network of alternative college newspapers.



life are compulsory schooling and sitting on your butt all day watching TV and becoming a failure, or whether or not school is even doing them very much good at all. Now is the time.

The Whole Deal With Compulsory Schooling →



The most prominent problem with public school is that the students are *forced* to go, both by law and by parental societal pressure.

Learning can only be done of one's free will. When one has an interest, it is only natural that they seek out the knowledge and guidance they need to pursue it. This kind of learning is done easily, openly, and enthusiastically because it is of one's own desire and it is what they believe is important, instead of what someone else tells them is important.

Public school warps the learning process by training people to be dependent upon authoritarians to tell them what to learn and how to do it. They start making kids feel independently incompetent and incapable from a very young age. When too much discipline and expectation gets in the way of learning, it can really mess things up. If you loved to, say, skateboard, would you still love it if someone was always telling you things like "you need to finesse your double kick-flip by Friday or you'll never make it in life..." Think about it.

At one point in time, compulsory attendance laws served a basic and somewhat useful purpose. They protected a child's right to a basic education when an adult might have denied them that right in order to exploit their labor. Now days the laws don't really help anyone, except for adults who are 1). Working in public schools and getting a paycheck at the end of the month; 2). Predjudiced towards young people and don't want to see them free and running around in public places 3). Trying to find employment and don't want to have kids competing in the job market. They don't help students, and suprisingly, they aren't much help to teachers and schools either. It costs a school time and trouble to keep kids who would rather be elsewhere there, not to mention what it costs to repair any damages or

disturbances the relentless prisoners cause whenever they get the chance. Students *cearainly* won't benefit from school if they don't want to be there, and as any teacher could tell you, when a student doesn't like school, they not only get very little out of the lessons, but disrupt others from learning as well.

As for the protection of children against the exploitation of their labor, child labor laws have been put into effect and labor practices have changed. Sometimes compulsory attendance laws keep young people from working when they might need to in order to help support the family. If anything is "exploiting" the labor of children today, it is school - keeping them working for 6 1/2 hours each weekaday and giving them 2-5 hours of homework each night.

School, in it's compulsory state, is comparable to prison. Kids are kept there during the day so other people won't have to deal with them. Perhaps a good step in the way of education reform would be not to abolish schools, but to abolish indefinite compulsory attendance laws. Facilities that are rich in educational resources, equipment, and helpful people don't sound like such a bad idea. They actually seem quite wonderful - that is, until you force people to be there that don't want to, causing it to turn into an institution of discipline and totalitarianism.

Having the choice to go to school, and having a choice what to learn would exceptionally enrich one's education dramatically. They would be choosing to partake in offered lessons out of a liking of the content, and not just sitting in a drab, dull, painfully boring class because there are threats of serious punishment if they don't.

I've gotta do my time every day. "We got nothing to say
All the teachers hate it, I'll be glad to lock the windows shut
I'm chained to my desk, I think I'm in a rut

Grab another text book and beat it over my head
I'll be glad to take the blame for all my mistakes
Give me a job of homework to waste all my time
They've taken education and made it a crime

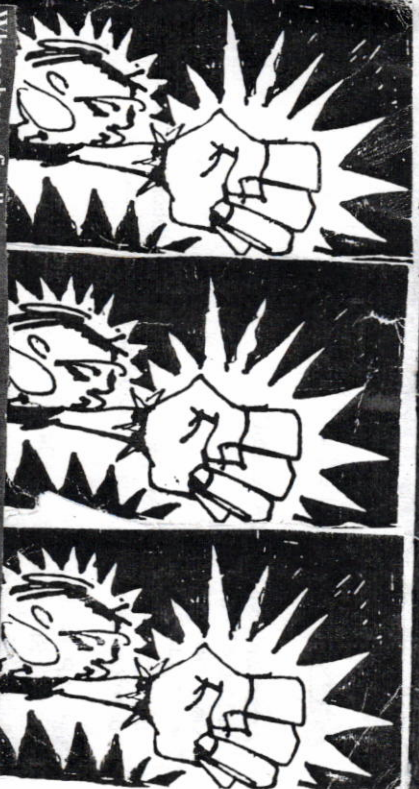
Break, taxi, and a family car is all that's in store for us
I'll be glad to take the blame for all my mistakes
Give me a job of homework to waste all my time
They've taken education and made it a crime

I'm sleeping through the cracks of a system going to hell
I'll be glad to take the blame for all my mistakes
Give me a job of homework to waste all my time
They've taken education and made it a crime

seems bust out
I will say that
I won't be their slave

We won't learn nothing
Except for how to hate
We won't be your slaves

Are you gonna join them
or are you gonna be free
We just want to be free



When change finally comes, you will be able to say that you helped and didn't just sit idly by (in other words you weren't a pussy). The protest is a way to vent frustration with the system and to facilitate change in a positive manner.

Protest means: "A declaration of disapproval or objection issued by an individual or party." You can protest by shouting slogans, wearing signs, and overall declaring what is your objective. With a group of people you can do a sit down protest. If you don't want to get arrested and charged with a small violation, just make sure the protest is on public property, not in the way of a fire escape, and does not intimidate the coming and going of people. Double check with the school or police beforehand if you are not sure. Examples of public property are sidewalks and parks.

A good example of a well organized protest would be: in the morning, have it take place in front of the school with signs, etc. You may not be seen by a large number of students but the word of mouth will be big. After protesting at school for a while, you might just walk to the nearest administration building, still protesting and shouting (if there is a big number of people, you'll need a parade/march permit from the city). Then protest in front of the administrative building for a couple of hours. The results will be positive and change will happen because you cared enough!

How To Protest from YOUTH for change/ PO Box 1712/C.S. CO 80901

It is very highly recommended that all protests against the oppression of kids be strictly non-violent (see the movie or books(s) on Ghandi for further detail). School shootings and violence against fellow youth are not protests. It is also highly recommended that all protests be for the betterment of the system.

To protest effectively takes a few steps.

First, familiarize yourself with the cause you are protesting. In this instance, we are protesting for the betterment of the system in which we are warehoused. This means that we need our voices to be heard, our rights as US citizens recognized in school (freedom of choice, religious choice, speech, etc.), and to be treated with respect and dignity.

Second, get together with some friends to protest. In the eyes of the system there is strength in numbers.

Third, make signs with protest slogans. By wearing or holding signs that state why you are protesting you allow passerbys to be aware of your cause and the situation you face at school. It is highly recommended that all signs do not contain what adults would consider profane language. This is not backing down or kissing-ass. This is simply keeping ourselves respectable in the eyes of adults.

Another thing you can do is get a megaphone or some other sound amplifying system. Having and using these can be tricky enough. It wouldn't come across well with some students and adults if you seemed to be whiney and preachy. Yet, our voice must be heard, so it is up to you to find a middle ground. A sound device can be heard to lead chants outside of schools and administrative buildings. Remember to keep it respectable, it will be a lot easier down the road if we do.

Fourth, prepare yourself mentally for possible intimidation by school officials and possibly peers. Don't let them manipulate you into fear, and don't let them place doubt into your mind. These are killers of the soul. A threat you may hear from school officials is: "We'll suspend you if you don't stop [exercising your freedom of speech and choice]!" Stick with it.

PLEASE EXCUSE THE INTERRUPTION

WE ARE SICK AND TIRED OF ASKING PERMISSION TO WIPE OUR ASSES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. THIS
MESSAGE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
INSTITUTIONALIZED YOUTH OF YOUR COUNTRY. HAVE
A NICE DAY.

It might be hard to tell sometimes, but most teachers are really decent people. A job as an authoritarian can sometimes be quite distorting. Usually teachers don't want to be assholes, but it's required for them to tell you what to do and nag on you in order for them to stay employed. They have to be able to "manage" you.

A lot of teachers are as fed up with the School System as any student might be. For some, that's why they chose the job in the first place, thinking they might be able to turn things around. Unfortunately, the system is a hell of a lot bigger than they are, and has been around a lot longer. Some of them come in to school rich in mind and spirit, and realize after the first year or so that this profession is nothing to get hyped up over, especially when their job is really more about keeping kids "in line". After a while of heckling kids and enforcing rules that they don't personally believe in, losing the respect of students in the process, it's not that hard for them to become a little jaded and start losing the since that they actually care about what they're doing. In this way, it makes it worse on all of us. Such is compulsory "education".

Teaching doesn't have to

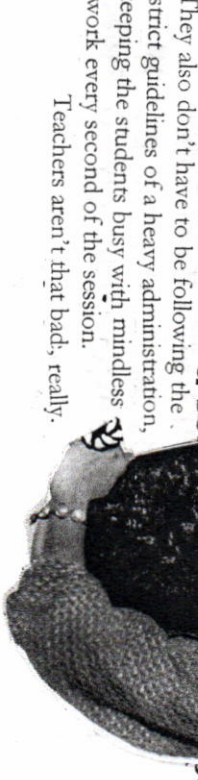
be a bad thing. There are teachers in martial arts schools, dance academies, and the like, but the thing is the students that

those people are there because they want to

be taught. They are not going to waste their time goofing off or acting rebellious (as in a public school situation), so the teacher doesn't have to make themselves into a jerk.

They also don't have to be following the strict guidelines of a heavy administration, keeping the students busy with mindless

work every second of the session. Teachers aren't that bad, really.



If the principal tries to talk with you, say that you want everything in writing. If you win, get copies and pass the copies out. If you lose, write a story about what happened. After you have written the story, get it published in the school paper. If you win, get copies and pass the copies out. If you lose, write a story about what happened. After you have written the story, get it published in the school paper.

NATIONAL STUDENT PROTEST DAY

Update on how the protest is going to help to change everything, that free speech isn't the end—it's the means towards creating (your concept of) a better world.

November 5, 1999

don't wuss out — it's a GOOD CAUSE!



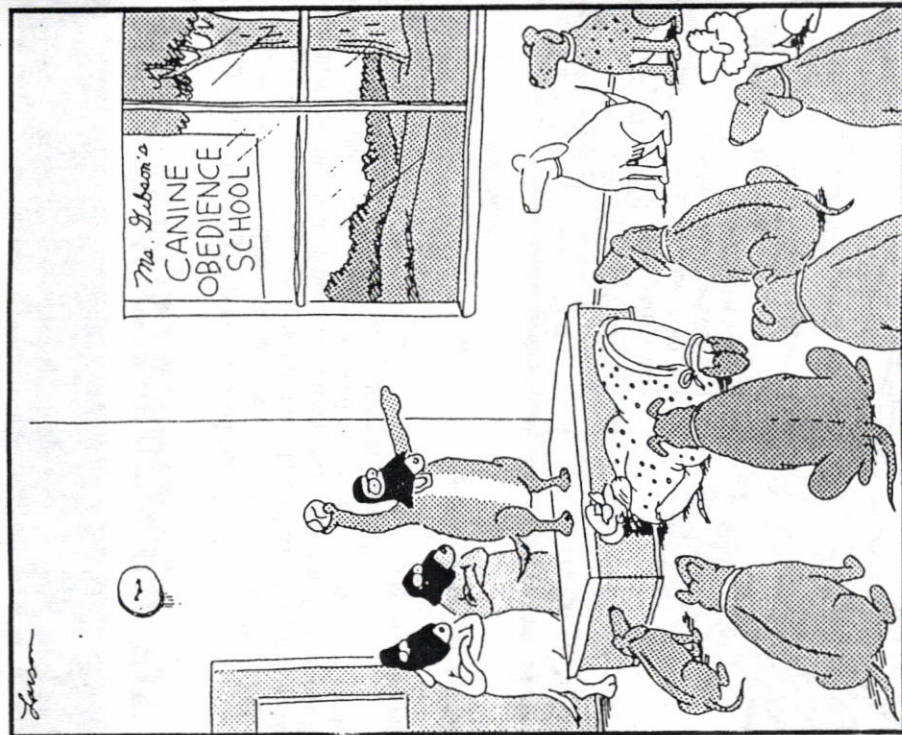
1967... 1999 WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Sometimes their job wares them out, for one reason or another, and makes them all stiff and crotchety, but that's no reason to hate them.

Many of them are very knowledgeable, if you allow them to be, and many would probably thrive as far as teaching goes as tutors and men for in a non-compulsory setting. However, just because one is in school doesn't make them a bad teacher. They can be good advisors and hold up decent discussions at times, so don't view them in a pessimistic sense before you consider a few things.

1) They are not your enemies, and 2) they probably need help understanding what's wrong with some things. They might not believe in some of the rules they have to enforce, but it's likely that they have been pawns of the system for so long that they can't tell the difference. Be sympathetic.

Respect Authority! Really, the teachers, administrators, etc. all do deserve your respect. They are simply human beings, and just like you, they deserve to be treated respectfully. However, respect does not mean obey or submit. You don't have to bow down to your teachers in order to do it. In order to be respectful, basically all you have to do is take one into consideration. You can rebel or be defiant (because of a political, philosophical, or ethical belief) and you can argue with them, just don't do it in the name of an offensive intention. When you want to tell them how much school sucks, don't talk down to them, help them understand. Respecting authority is important, just like respecting everyone else. Treat all with respect, even those you have a grudge for, and with no doubts expect the same back.



"And I say we go outside and we play with this ball!"

DISRUPTIVE "REVOLUTIONARY" TARGETS FOR HIGH-SCHOOLERS

STOLEN FROM THE SCHOOL STORES TEXTBOOK or Something...

DISCLAIMER

This publication does not condone the use of violence or any illegal act. The authors and distributors of this publication do not condone any of the illegal acts described or implied in this publication. Do not bomb anything. Do not burn anything down. Do not do anything that could cause injury to anyone or any thing in any way shape or form. The people that have written and published this do not take responsibility for it's readers. Got it? This is only for laughs!

-Get a syringe (minus needle) or similar device. Mix both tubes of epoxy glue with rubbing alcohol. You now have a half an hour to fill locks, door jambs, etc before the glue hardens. If you can't get epoxy glue and a syringe a tube of airplane glue works as well but is not as permeant.

-Call the school and leave the phone off the hook. The way some phone systems work, this will tie up their phone until yours is back on the hook.

-Protest U.S. aid to reactionary regimes by defoliating plants around the school or by digging a bomb crater on the front lawn. When the ecology freaks complain, ask them where they were when the U.S. was doing the same thing to Indochina.

-Start an information service to give new students opinions and warnings about the teachers and administrators before enrollment day.

-Bad food? Have a good old fashioned food riot!

-Free all the animals in the biology classroom.

-Write a "consumer report" on the "education" you've been consuming. Distribute it to parents at school functions.

-Perform citizen's arrest of administrators for destroying the minds of youth then telephone the police to come and take the criminals into custody. (This would be an excellent guerilla theater action).

sleep in your most boring class the next day. It is possible to expand the limits in school, but you must free yourself before your school will be free.

ALBERT EINSTEIN DROPPED OUT

Your allies among the rich and famous

"I was very happy as a child with my toys in my nursery. I have been happier every year since I became a man. But this interlude of school makes a somber grey patch upon the chart of my journey. It was an unending spell of worries that did not seem petty, and of toil uncheered by fruition; a time of discomfort, restriction and purposeless monotony." -Winston Churchill

"As far as I have seen, at school...they aimed at blotting out one's individuality." -Franz Kafka

"My grandmother wanted me to have a good education, so she kept me out of school." -Margaret Mead



"I HAVE NEVER LET MY SCHOOLING INTERFERE WITH MY EDUCATION" -MARK TWAIN

Unschooling in School

Yes, it is quite possible to unschool while you are in school, although it's not quite as great. If for whatever reason you are stuck in school, learning to unschool your brain while you are attending might save you from a mental breakdown, or just help you get a better education.

First off, reject grade slavery as much as possible (sometimes difficult when you have parents). The importance here is to learn, not to obey teachers and rely on marks for your self worth. Coleman McCarthy once said "grades are academic violence." True dat.

Second, pursue your own interests. Bring your own things to read, and reject the idiotic Boxcar Children books. When you get the chance to do a report, do it on something you like and present it from your own point of view. Tell them about how Columbus was a genocidal maniac and about the Seattle general Strike in 1919. Work on zines instead of mindless worksheets and pretend articles that will never be published. Use the paint in the art room to experiment with techniques or paint something you really feel instead of painting a car like teacher told you to. Third, skip when you feel it necessary or have something more educational to do, which a lot of things are. You can also drop classes quite easily and get into other ones that interest you. It may not help you graduate, but credits for the sake of credits is not what unschooling is about. You can also drop classes in order to shorten your school day so you can leave earlier and pursue other things you like. Go at it.

Basically, do things you want to do and take advantage of the good aspects of school (free supplies, etc) while nonchalantly ignoring the bad parts. Have fun and stay up late.

-Rip off dishes and silverware from the cafeteria, towels from the gym, stencils and paper from the duplicating room, layout equipment from the art and drafting departments, tools from the wood shop, and light bulbs from the sockets. Give them to a needy group.

-You can make a very effective fuse by lighting a non-filter cigarette in a book of matches so that it touches the heads and will ignite then when it burns down that far. Loosely crumple paper around the matches and cigarettes so they are hidden. Toss it in a wastebasket or any other area with a lot of papers, preferably in the office. It takes about five minutes to ignite - by then you can be on the other side of the building. Practice this at home before trying it.

-Pick up some dog training liquid at any pet store - it smells like piss. If you can't figure out what to do with that than you shouldn't be reading this.

-Pass out anti-school propaganda (try this publication) at your school. When you get lead down to the principal's office, swallow some ipecac syrup before you go in. This will make you vomit. Do so all over the carpet, desk clothing, etc. then apologize profusely.

-Give your school library a subscription to a good underground newspaper and insist that they make it available to students.

-Print up false notices frequently using the same format as the school uses and distribute them to teacher's mailboxes. Eventually they'll never know what to believe.

-Need a signature? Collect things that have teacher signatures on them. paste them all down on a sheet of white paper and Xerox them. Distribute to students and forge when useful. (When getting started you might put a piece of carbon paper under the signature with the carbon paper facing down on what you want signed. Then trace over the name with a steady relaxed hand. Practice makes perfect.)

-Are certain teachers or administrators misbehaving? Print up a rat sheet with their names and telephone numbers and distribute it. Now students can call them up at any time and reprimand them - 3:00 am for example. Also you could order them pizza... plumbers... think big!

-Unscrew and remove the hinges on the door to the principals office. When the try to walk use it next it should have a slightly crushing effect.

put alarm clocks in various lockers set on loud. Set the clocks so that will not

close THE SCHOOLS—SAVE THE CHILDREN

Prisons

Authoritarian structure

Dress code

Pass needed for going from one part of the facility to another

Emphasis on silence and order

Negative reinforcement (e.g., solitary confinement)

Walk in double or single file

Emphasis on behavior

Extrinsic reward system

Loss of individual autonomy

Abridged freedoms

Little participation in decision making

Schools

Authoritarian structure

Dress code

Pass needed for going from one part of the facility to another

Emphasis on silence and order

Negative reinforcement (suspension, detention, low grades)

Walk in double or single file

Emphasis on behavior

Extrinsic reward system

Loss of individual autonomy

Abridged freedoms

Little participation in decision making*

It takes motivation, but it's not impossible to direct your own education. Once you've figured out that learning is great and that it's got nothing to do with school, you'll want to do it, too.

Unschooling is the universe. There are hundreds of thousands of courses, millions of teachers, and endless learning opportunities. There are no rules against wearing a hat or chewing gum. To get the most out of your lifetime, enroll as soon as possible.

It never ceases to amaze people that they can have a real productive life outside of school or that they can even learn without the help of chalkboards and hard wooden desks. Everybody has a little trouble figuring out what kinds of things they should do though, so here's a little hint:

Keep an open mind. Don't be ~~t~~ sure that there's something you *don't* want to learn about. NO

KNOWLEDGE IS BAD! Don't try to rush anything.

Remember this is for the sake of learning, being educated, not to make a grade or flimsily show off.

Travel when you can, talk to people every day, do

internships in fields you find impressive, or with people you find impressive. If it sounds interesting, don't be afraid to

take a class or two at the community college. If you know nothing about music, go get a show on community radio.

Go to all the conferences and conventions that pass through town, even if it's a bunch of republican cattle

farming-psychiatrists and you're a vegetarian naturopathic anarchist. You'll figure out how these people work and see

a side of life you might not usually be exposed to. Make your day so busy that other people look at you with awe

and think that you're important. You figure it out.



Unschooling can be very structured, or not structured at all, depending on what the unschooler decides to do. Unschooling is not school at home (that's homeschooling), but if Johnny decides he wants to study out of textbooks and write reports for no one besides his mother and himself to read, than that's fine. Similarly, if Sasha wakes up in the morning and decides to go to the library that day with nothing particular in mind to look for but happens to find something really interesting, and decides afterward to go sit in the park for an hour and ends up observing the social habits of college students, that's fine, as well. The point is that learning does not have to be structured, and when it takes place, it is not always intentional. When you find an old zine you did six years ago about the history of the Northwest music scene, or stumble over the go-kart you built, you will realize that learning was there all the time.

Compulsory School has probably loaded you with the idea that structure and monotony are the keys to knowledge. It's normal to think that spending an hour every day studying out of a science textbook is a good way to learn, but eventually these habits wear off. You will discover that learning from *real* experiences in the *real* world can't be substituted by reading a chapter and filling out a worksheet every day.

Unschooling families generally believe that the natural curiosity of a healthy child, with access to a rich environment, will lead the child to learn what they need to know. When learning comes about as a result of the student's desires, it is absorbed easily, enthusiastically, and openly. They work harder but enjoy it more, because they are doing what they think is important. Compulsory schooling disrupts and usually stifles or destroys natural curiosity and the self-directed learning process, so learning driven by desire is much more efficient than passive absorption. Parent's don't need to worry about how their child is going to learn something without teachers and desks, because they know it is in their child's heart to do it anyway.

LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT. "BETTER CLASSES, BY NO MEANS UNBETTERED" MEASURE IN DIFFERENT ENDS. STUDENTS (ESPECIALLY PRE-HIGH SCHOOLERS) TEND TO MAKE THE MISTAKE OF USING GRADES TO DETERMINE "SMARTNESS" OF COURSE WHAT THEY TRULY DESERVE IS HOW WELL ONE HAS COOPERATED WITH TEACHER, AND OCCASIONALLY HOW MUCH TEACHER LIKES THEM. GRADES DON'T SHOW THAT YOU CAN OR CANNOT READ, WRITE, OR THINK. THEY DON'T SHOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN DO SOMETHING YOU BELIEVE IN AND FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IT, OR WHETHER OR NOT YOU'VE LEARNED FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES AND MISTAKES. BAD GRADES ARE STILL, WHILE GOOD GRADES ARE POSITIVE AND MULTIPURPOSE. YOU START TO DEPEND ON THEM FOR YOUR SENSE OF SELF-WORTH. THIS IS NOT HEALTHY AT ALL! TEACHERS CONTRAST THE MEANING OF EDUCATION. THEY PUT THE STRONG FOCUS ON LEARNING. POINTING STUDENTS TOWARDS COMPLETION AND MIXING COURSES IN SCHEDULE, AND MOST OF THE TIME INVOLVING PARENTAL SUPPORT, RATHER THAN GETTING A GOOD EDUCATION (OBSERVATION AND SUBMISSION TO TEACHERS IS GOOD EDUCATION).

AND SUBMISSION TO TEACHERS IS
GIVEN ENLIGHTENED.

**DON'T BE A
SLAVE TO GRADES!
TAKE YOUR LIFE
BACK AND LEAP
FREELY!!!**



YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE TO...

THE UNSCHOOLING OPTION

Are you completely content with having to go to school every day? Do you yearn for a better choice, finding all the "alternative programs" within the Public School District to be mediocre traps? If there is any part of your schooling that you think could use some improvement, you might want to consider leaving.

Your guidance counselor has probably never told you that you can find a legal way out of school, without ending up with a life-long career of asking "would you like fries with that?" or inner-city crack dealing. You probably have not been informed that there is a way, free of strictly structured constraints that you can unleash your creativity and explore zillions of interesting things, all while having fun, and still get into a good college and have a "Real" job and live in the suburbs if you so desire. No, school people aren't too enthusiastic about promoting this alternative (some of them probably don't know very much about it), but it's there. There is yet one alternative that may not even exist in the minds of most school people: Unschooling. Some people use the term "self-schooling", or the guise "homeschooling", but labels are not what's important here.

Unschooling can be a little tricky to define, but it is not as hard to describe what it is not. Unschooling is not a complex hierarchy with students at the bottom. It is not breaking up the day into learning and playtime, and it is not a forceful, de-humanizing way to educate a human being. Instructors with teaching certificates are not necessary, and neither are heavy textbooks. There are no required courses. Prerequisites are decided by the student. It is not limited to certain hours of the day, and usually does not take place in one specific building and does not take place in one specific building for months (or years!) on end.

Unschoolers are not told what they should care about or when they should care about it by any outside authority. They are not told what is good enough. They are not separated and classified by chronological age, and they are not isolated from the "real" working world.

Unschooling is a non-coercive educational option that recognizes individual rights, individual responsibility, and is individually autonomous. There are not really any guidelines regarding what to learn or how to go about it. Unschoolers use their own judgment to decide what opportunities to take advantage of, and educate themselves using whatever method they decide is affective and fulfilling... whether they choose to sit inside and watch documentary movies and read books, or hitchhike across the country to see new people, places, and things every day.

GET THE HELL OUT OF SCHOOL